



PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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ADOPTED


BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

October 06, 2015

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October 6, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012


PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ALLOCATION OF REWARD FUNDS RELATING TO THE MURDER OF JOSEPH MOLINA (ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)

SUBJECT

Board approval is being requested for the distribution of reward funds in the amount of \$5,000 to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Approve the recommendation of the Reward Committee to distribute reward funds in the total amount of \$5,000, to be paid from the Board's discretionary funds to the individual who provided information to law enforcement that led to the apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the murder of Joseph Molina.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On December 10, 2004, at approximately 10:30 p.m., Joseph Molina was shot and killed by two robbers while working in a Subway Restaurant in the City of Whittier. On December 14, 2004, the Board approved a reward for \$5,000 and on February 10, 2015 reinstated the \$5,000 reward.

During the investigation, the Lieutenant from the Whittier Police Department was introduced to the witness, who provided specific and relevant information that led to the identification and apprehension of responsible parties, and the recovery of important evidence. Within three months of Mr. Molina's death, four suspects were arrested and charged.

The Lieutenant indicated that the case went to trial in Los Angeles County Superior Court. The witness testified at the trial. Four suspects were arrested and charged, including Mr. Leonardo Cisneros who was convicted by a jury of all charged counts on May 7, 2014 and was sentenced to death.

One claim was filed for the reward with the Board of Supervisors, Executive Office. A panel of individuals representing the Sheriff, Chief Executive Office, County Counsel and the Executive Office of the Board reviewed the claim and the panel recommends awarding the \$5,000 reward to the claimant. In accordance with the provisions of the Los Angeles County Code, the Board must now consider the claim and make a final determination for distribution of the reward funds.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the above recommendation supports the County Strategic Goal No. 2 – Community Support and Responsiveness. Publication in local newspapers and posting of reward notices on the County website may encourage persons to provide information to law enforcement, which could lead to the apprehension and/or conviction of individuals who commit crimes, thereby improving the quality of life for residents of Los Angeles County by removing such individuals from the community.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Board of Supervisors established a \$5,000 reward fund. Pursuant to provisions in the County Code, the reward is to be paid from the Board of Supervisors' discretionary funds in equal shares of \$1,000 from each Supervisor's budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In 1993, the Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the County Code establishing procedures for offering case rewards for information leading to the apprehension and/or conviction of persons guilty of criminal acts. Your Board, from time to time, has offered such rewards to encourage citizens to come forward and assist law enforcement with their investigations.

The action recommended is in compliance with the County Code, Title 4 – Revenue and Finance relating to rewards; and specifically Section 4.50.010B, which states "conviction of the person or persons responsible for the crime shall be required for payment of a reward unless the Board of Supervisors makes a finding of impossibility of Conviction due to the death or incapacity of such person or persons."

The Notice of Reward offered was published in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune. In addition, the reward notice was posted on the Board of Supervisors' website; and the Sheriff's Department was provided a copy of the notice. The filing period to submit a claim to the Executive Office of the Board for the reward expired on July 10, 2015.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of this recommendation does not impact other current County services or projects.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Ogawa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" and last name "Ogawa" clearly distinguishable.

PATRICK OGAWA

Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

PO:LL:mdc

c: District Attorney
Sheriff
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Interim County Counsel
Auditor-Controller